GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6577
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2002
DUES AGAINST ACCREDITED AGENCIES
PRABHUNATH SINGH;RAGHUNATH JHA;RAMJI MANJHI

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a sum of Rs. 363.51 crore were lying unrealized from accredited agencies, out of which Rs. 334.45 crore was recoverable from 45 agencies;

(b) if so, the reasons for not realizing the dues from the accredited agencies;

(c) whether another sum of Rs. 157.94 crore has become due as interest of the outstanding dues as on August, 2001;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Doordarshan failed to cancel accredition of the defaulting agencies even after their failure to make payment by due dates:

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to recover the outstanding dues including interest?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) & (b): Prasar Bharati has intimated that Rs. 169.28 crores is outstanding as on dateagainst the accredited agencies. All possible efforts are being made to recover the dues.

(c) & (d): Prasar Bharati has intimated that the interest component of outstanding dues is Rs. 20.03 crores, the details of which are as under:

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1997-1998 -  Rs.1.99 crores
1998-1999 -  Rs. 6.39 crores
1999-2000 -  Rs. 5.48 crores
2000-2001 -  Rs. 6.17 crores
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(e), (f) & (g): Prasar Bharati has informed that for recovery of its dues, Doordarshan hasinitiated steps against the concerned producers/defaulting agencies which includes legal action, encashment of bank guarantees, stoppages of programmes and suspension/ withdrawal of accreditation status. Because of the failure on the part of the companies to make payment of dues, accreditation status of 9 (nine) companies has been suspended and they have been put on advance payment for current business. Accreditation status of 40 (forty) companies has been withdrawn. Other steps taken for recovery of outstanding amounts includes: -

i) Monthly monitoring is done and regular reminders are sent to clear outstanding dues.

ii) No fresh programmes / extension of programmes is given to any defaulting agency / producer unless they agree to give advance payment and commit to abide by an agreed payment plan.

iii) If the defaulting agencies do not adhere to the payment plan, then the programmes are taken off the air and their accreditation status is cancelled / withdrawn.

iv) On cancellation / withdrawal of accreditation status, bank guarantees of agencies are en-cashed.

v) To secure Doordarshan`s revenue and to cover the credit period, the bank guarantee amount has been enhanced; and

vi) Legal proceedings have also been launched to recover the outstandings in some cases.